

# THE TORY MANIFESTO IN 1883.

## "FACTS FOR IRISH ELECTORS."

PROOF OF ITS AUTHENTICITY.

### *Affidavit of the Author.*

The following is a copy of the affidavit of M. W. Kirwan, setting forth that the pamphlet called "Facts for Irish Electors" was prepared and revised by W. R. Meredith, Sir John Macdonald and others, prior to the General Election of 1883, wherein an earnest appeal was made to the Irish Catholic Electors to support Conservative candidates on account of the liberality of the leader of the Opposition, and alleging that they should oppose the Mowat Government on account of their ultra-Protestant leaning.

### *Affidavit of M. W. Kirwan.*

"I, the undersigned M. W. Kirwan, of the City of Quebec, and presently in the City of Montreal, solemnly affirm as follows:—

"I am a journalist.

"When in the City of Toronto in the year 1882, I was shown a letter from Sir John Macdonald, Prime Minister of Canada, addressed to a prominent Conservative friend of mine, urging the desirability of securing my services as a writer of campaign literature for the Conservative party during the approaching Ontario Provincial Elections.

"The letter was an autograph one.

"I was accordingly engaged by H. H. Smith, of Peterborough, the organizer of the Conservative party for Ontario.

"My salary was to be \$100 a month. The understanding was that I should assist the Conservative party by special appeals to the Irish Catholic Electors.

"Sir John Macdonald and Mr. Meredith, the leader of the Opposition in the Ontario Legislature, were aware of the agreement.

"I accordingly began to write an appeal to the Irish Catholics of Ontario.

"I wrote the sheet **"Facts for the Irish Catholic Electors,"** extracts from which have recently appeared in the *Globe*, of Toronto.

"While I was preparing it, I had, occasionally, to make inquiries as to the nature and scope of my work from Mr. Meredith, to whom I had always easy access.

"This was during the session of the Ontario Legislature, and as my researches were made in the Parliamentary Library, it was there that my consultations with Mr. Meredith generally took place.

"When the sheet, **"Facts for the Irish Catholic Electors,"** was completed, I submitted a proof to Mr. Meredith in his private room in the Queen's Hotel, and I showed a proof to Mr. Bunting in his private office in The Mail Buildings.

"He received the proof as if expecting it, and expressed no surprise.

"I also sent a proof to Sir John Macdonald, under cover, marked 'private and confidential.' It was returned to me with several marginal corrections in Sir John's handwriting. I have a distinct recollection of some of the corrections made by Sir John Macdonald. He mentioned the names of some Irish Catholics who had been appointed by him to positions of emolument and trust. These corrections by Sir John were embodied in the sheet and published with it.

"I have also a distinct recollection of Mr. Bunting saying that the sheet would do good among the Irish Catholics, or words to that effect.

"I remember, too, that Mr. Meredith raised no objections to any statement made in the said sheet after reading the proof. He smiled approvingly, and said: 'it would do,' or something similar to that.

"I am, too, the author of the circular containing the following letter and questions:—

(Private and confidential.)

Toronto, Jan. 7, 1883.

Dear Sir.—A letter will be forwarded you in a day or so making inquiries with reference to the Catholic vote in your riding.

Be good enough to answer the questions and forward your reply without delay to H. H. Smith, Esq., Peterboro'.

Yours faithfully, —

#### QUESTIONS.

1. About how many Catholic electors are there in your riding?
2. About how many of them voted for the Conservative candidate the last election?

3. About how many voted for the Reformer?
4. About how many were there who did not vote at all?
5. Who are the Catholic clergymen in the riding?
6. How did they vote?
7. Did they take an active part in the contest, and if so, how?
8. What reasons, if any, do the Catholic electors give for supporting Mr. Mowat?
9. Have you any suggestions to make as to the best means of putting the Conservative cause fairly before the Catholic electors?
10. Give the names of a few of the most influential Catholics in your riding?
11. Send a complete list of the Catholic electors in your riding, with names and addresses.
12. Oblige by returning this list at once, and the reply to question eleven, as soon as possible.
13. Name of riding.

"These questions were also submitted to Mr. Meredith and approved by him. *It was*, to the best of my recollection, *on his suggestion* that the answers were directed to be sent to H. H. Smith, of Peterborough, although said circulars were mailed by me from Toronto. My salary was regularly paid by Mr. Smith during this time, and for several months while I was canvassing and addressing meetings of the Irish Catholic Electors of Ontario.

"And I make this solemn declaration, conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the Act passed in the thirty-seventh year of Her Majesty's reign, entitled 'An Act for the suppression of voluntary and extra judicial oaths'

"Solemnly affirmed before me at Montreal  
on this fourth day of December, A.D. 1886.

W. A. WEIR,

A Commissioner in Quebec for receiving affidavits for Ontario.

181 St. James St., Montreal.

M. W. KIRWAN."

### A NEW PARTY.

There is another interesting document to hand, which also, in a very striking manner, shows the treachery of its promoters. It deserves a place beside the formulas of the "New Party" and the "Equal Rights Party," both of which, though professing entire independence of the existing parties, and opposition to both, and though apparently not actuated by common motives and interests, seem to be at one in the opinion that the Mowat Government should be turned out because Sir John Macdonald refused to disallow the Jesuit Act! The late election in West



Lambton, and projected ones in the coming contest, prove this fact beyond much controversy. But here is an organization which wants to do the same thing under a different name and line. It calls itself by the pretentious name of "The Ontario Educational Reform Party." The fact that the notorious Big Push Wilkinson, of the recent "Brood of Brawling bribers," is one of the organizers and leading lights of this organization will not secure for its proposals the confidence and support of the good men and true to whom it appeals. Here is the scheme as outlined by the Secretary of the organization in letters addressed to prominent electors throughout the Province, of which the following is a copy:—

TORONTO, 9th August, '89.

"DEAR SIR,—I have been instructed to write to you by our party.

"We have formed a party upon the enclosed platform, to be known as the Ontario Educational Reform Party. The party is to work exclusively in Provincial politics. The purposes are:—

"(1) To neutralize the Catholic solid vote in the Legislature, and thus disenthral any party from its control and influence.

"(2) To reform the school laws in conformity with the platform.

"The mode of accomplishing this is to run independent candidates in about thirty ridings in which Mr. Meredith's party cannot win, thus securing, say, half that number of seats from Mr. Mowat's side, and so secure the balance of power between the two parties and be able to dictate terms to them. By not opposing Mr. Meredith in the ridings that he can carry we can get a solid Conservative vote, and our platform will bring us enough ultra-Protestants to win the election.

"There is no advantage to us in winning from Mr. Meredith, as his is the smaller side, and the more he gets, the less we will need to get to give us the balance of power.

"The party is not seeking for power or to reform a Government, but only to become the balance of power.

"We find that you stand in such position in your riding of ——— that if you were to name the candidate on this platform you could win easily and without a peradventure. *You could get the solid Conservative vote for they would not bring out a candidate*, and you would get your personal friends, Reformers, and the ultra-Protestants who would rather vote against ——— than have Catholic rule.

"A requisition circulated by your friends would commit enough Reformers to you, before you accepted, to make your election an assured fact.

"We will be glad to have your views upon it, and will be happy to give you any further information that you may desire. Your correspondence will be strictly confidential, as we hope ours will be with you. Be assured we are going to win in the next election, which may come off this fall, for we are meeting with the utmost encouragement from every quarter. When we get a little further along, and the leading citizens return from their summer holidays, we are going to hold a large public meeting in the city, at which we would like to have your presence on the platform.

"Your obedient servant,

"H. J. BOSWELL,

Sec. of the O. E. R. P.

"29 Adelaide Street East."